

## St. Patrick's Grade 2 Overview



Grade 2 is an exciting year for learning. At St. Patrick's, the grade 2 program offers a wide range of opportunities for children to develop their full potential in academic, social and spiritual areas. A number of programs are in place to ensure that children develop critical thinking and social skills. These skills are necessary to enable them to be well on their way to becoming future competent, caring and concerned citizens. Students learn to engage in books developing their fluency and comprehension of texts.

Grade 2 is a very special year as children receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Children learn about our forgiving, loving God and the importance of forgiving others' their sins through the sacrament of Reconciliation. An understanding of the body of Christ and the magnificent gift our Lord has given us through the sacrament of Holy Communion will be emphasized during our spring term. Parent meetings discussing the preparation for First Holy Communion will take place in the spring with the elementary and prep teachers as well as Father Hawkswell.

The grade 2 literacy program includes *Literacy Place*, with an emphasis on small group instruction as well as whole class activities. With the *Reading Power Program* students learn how to make connections, analyze, question, infer and visualize. Students have a variety of books to choose from that are colourful, entertaining, informative and at the students' levels. Children learn to choose these 'just right' books so that they are able to develop their reading and comprehension abilities more effectively. The *Daily 5* program emphasizes the importance of 5 components for effective reading and comprehension: reading to self, read to others, listen to reading, work on writing, and word work. By October all 5 components are part of the daily literacy program in grade 2.

One of the most important things we (you and I) could ever do for your children is to help them develop a love of reading. A home reading log will go home every night with your child. Please look in his/her book bag daily for a different book. Have your child read to you each night before bedtime (about 20 minutes). Ask them questions

about the book, stopping throughout to check your child's understanding of the story as well as his/her thoughts, and opinions. Please sign the home reading log and ensure it is returned the following day to school. There is also a *Home Reading Response Journal* that will be going home. It is designed to engage children in thought provoking activities, reflections and to engage them in creative writing and an expression of ideas.

In the areas of phonics and grammar there will be focused instruction on short vowel sounds, blends, initial, medial and ending sounds of words. The meanings of and applications of nouns, verbs, adverbs, and adjectives are reinforced. An emphasis on grammatical rules such as the uses of past and present tenses, subject-verb agreements, and the proper uses of articles are reinforced. The program for use in grade 2 is *What To Teach and How*.

For spelling, a list of 15 words is given as a pre-test (marked but not recorded) every Monday. They have the whole week to practice writing these words through various activities at home and at school. On the Friday of each week, a Post test on the same words is given to them (marked and recorded).

In Social Studies, students learn how to read and interpret a map of their local neighbourhood. They will learn about and do activities to strengthen their knowledge of communities, family and friends. The science curriculum will focus on a basic understanding of animal changes and growth. Students will get an opportunity to compare and contrast animal lifecycles and to observe an animal grow in the classroom particularly butterflies and snails. Other science topics will include a study of the properties of matter, air, water and soil. Students will conclude their unit on water with a trip to the Seymour Nature reserve and engage in a nature study walk around Rice Lake in North Vancouver.

In math, students will learn the place value of numbers to 100. They will focus on mastering their basic addition and subtraction facts as well as learn to work with double digit numbers. Problem solving and "hands on" group work will also be a focus. A focus on developing critical thinking skills and mental math strategies will be a focus for the grade 2's. Students complete various activities in geometry, place value, fractions, patterns, ordinal numbers, skip counting, multiplication and measurement. Our main programs are the "*Math Makes Sense*" program and the *Creative Mathematics* program.

Children are introduced to typing programs and various educational programs as a support to our academic curriculum. There will be an emphasis on word processing and typing. The *AbraCadabra* literacy website is also used.

I am looking forward to a fabulous year of learning in grade 2. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

God Bless You,

Mrs. S. DiFonzo (Grade 2 Teacher)